

No. 2

ANCIENT
SKILLS
AND
WISDOM
REVIEW

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Subscription: £2 p.a.

THE STONE CIRCLE OF THE BRITISH ISLES by AUBREY BURL
(Yale University Press, £10)

This book --- apart from one brief divergence to gently chide ley hunters -- is a model of excellence. It gives the investigator of ancient sites all the technical material he needs without nit-picking detail tedium and puts the scientific material into true perspective. The stone circles are shown in both their local diversity and overall integral scheme; the astroarchaeology is treated intelligently and sympathetically; chronological aspects are discussed fully; the techniques and inspiration for construction are suggested. It is a thoroughly workmanlike synthesis of archaeological -- as opposed to speculative -- knowledge about monuments which are becoming increasingly a subject of interest for the general reader.

I naturally find the conclusions of professional archaeologists of great interest and except for a vociferous minority they are reasonable people whom I see as complementary rather than being on the other side of a hypothetical fence -- or henge.

This book forms a what you've always wanted to know (archaeologically) about stone circles but were unable to find it. Having discussed their origins and possible purposes, Burl covers Britain regionally with constant cross-referencing, concluding with the two most spectacular examples, Stonehenge and Avebury. Where the book becomes the ultimate in easy reference is a catalogue of information on hundreds of individual, circles, rings, and henges giving grid references, size, type, excavations, astronomical possibilities and biographical data.

There are 36 photographs and 50 maps and diagrams to illustrate the points made by the author.

Scholarly it is, a standard work it becomes by default (though Evan Hadingham's slimmer "Circles and Standing Stones" being also excellent), but the sheer weight of detail detracts from the essence of the sites somewhat, and they certainly have atmosphere and charisma beyond Burl's descriptions, though this is not to imply that a sensitivity to the sites is entirely the domain of speculative antiquarians.

Yet tenets of "cutlaw" earth mystery lore are unconsciously paraded frequently such as -- to utilise a small sequence of pages -- similarities to Amerind technique (p.31), quartz usage (p.33), running water proximity (p.38), burial "red herring" (pp.39/40), and, in fact, on p.41 his comments upon the geometrical differences between sites with or without burials begs questions. Burl refers to T.G. Lethbridge's pendulum dating experiment at the Merry Maidens and Lethbridge's experience of the stone seemingly rocking, but Burl leaves it as a curiosity as having not been scientifically repeated.

The style is academic and dry, though Burl intersperses a modicum of folkloric material which is occasionally lighthearted, commenting "folk-stories add as much to the confusion as to the fascination that stone circles create in the modern mind." Also he betrays a sense of humour sparsely, as with his comment that "an ephemeral

material like wood may have been as widely used as stone by people who never considered the imbalance this would cause on archaeological distribution maps."

After long argument about the validity of stone circle geometry and metrology along with an appraisal of areas of posited prehistoric religion, Burl concludes that: "So far from astronomy and magic being mutually exclusive they were quite possibly complementary in many of the ceremonies that took place in stone circles. It is unlikely, however, that these were occasions of pure science as has sometimes been claimed." Well, I know of no one who has ever claimed so. Burl being absolutely in sync with the alleged "lunatic fringe" as one of the seniors of his professions still chooses to call the new wave of people questioning the validity of outmoded prehistoric paradigms. Also Burl's views on continuity of folk memory and that there remains a multitude of problems unanswered regarding stone circles are also mirrored.

Establishment viewpoint, but a good read and an essential reference book.



EARTH MYSTERIES:A STUDY IN PATTERNS

edited by KEITH CRITCHLOW & GRAHAM CHALLIFOUR
(R.I.L.K.O., £2-35, inc. p&p)

The book of the exhibition. A year ago I was shown slide pictures of paintings and other work to be displayed in the Earth Mysteries: R.I.L.K.O. Artists Exhibition which after much energy and enthusiasm was held earlier this year at the ACME Gallery in London. Unfortunately I did not get to see the exhibition and so must be satisfied with the accompanying book which expresses in literary and photographic forms the visions of the artists.

It must be admitted that there is nothing greatly new here for the seasoned researcher, but a variety of writers cover the subject of earth mysteries intelligently and in corporate coherence. Prof. Alex Thom's major Stonehenge article is reprinted and Keith Critchlow gives a summary of aspects of astroarchaeology; leys are dealt with by John Michell and Paul Devereux, and there is a fine photographic record of a specific example; the Bords discuss ley power in the context of folklore, drawing upon their The Secret Country reaerches, while Tom Graves reassembles material from his Dowsing book to establish a checkable hypothesis for earth energies; John A. Glover writes evocatively of visiting Cumbria's Castlerigg; and Christopher Castle posits his ideas that stone markings were more than mere decoration. However, the most thought-provoking piece is an essay on traditional knowledge by Graham Challifour, which deserves serious consideration, despite its contents being so far from the mainstream of general (blinkered) thinking.

Pleasantly balanced, well laid out and visually pleasing, "Earth Mysteries" gives a first-class cross-section of opinion on this subject (with only terrestrial zodiacs absent). Recommended to both novice and adept.



IN THE NEXT ISSUE

many more books, new I.G.R. publications and many magazines will be reviewed.



A LITTLE HISTORY OF ASTRO-ARCHAEOLOGY by JOHN MICHELL
(Thames & Hudson, £3-50)

John Michell is living proof that the essay is alive and kicking and can still be properly executed today. Currently unfashionable, his chosen form of writing is in this particular case most apposite, for the subject matter of astroarchaeology has its roots in an era where such a style was the norm. One shudders to think of Erich von Daniken let loose on Thom's data and the investigations of the pre-decessors of this eminent researcher into the link between Stone Age sites and heavenly bodies.

As John Michell states "the idea seems harmless enough, but it arouses passions", for as he stresses, the whole concept of steady progress of civilization is being challenged. The linked heresy of leys, too, is naturally made more plausible if it can be shown that the supposed barbaric savages of yesteryear were, in fact, sophisticated technologists. In other words, aligned monuments were kids' stuff. But tell that to the "jealous professors". John Michell goes in for a quick knock-out on Page 47 when he allows one of orthodoxy's heavyweights, Stuart Piggott, to ludicrously drop his guard and state, "Only professional archaeologists have the right to put forward new ideas on archaeology." As closed shops go, Piggott unwittingly depicts himself as some kind of general secretary of an Archaeologists and General Tumuli Ravagers' Union. The entrenched hatred of orthodoxy towards "amateurs" and reciprocal feeling is focused upon in a reference to my editorship of THE LEY HUNTER magazine (1969-1976) when I exchanged "intermittent discourtesies" with academic rival ANTIQUITY.

The book aims to encapsulate the history, the arguments and the eventual validity of astroarchaeology. There are plenty of illustrations (75 actually), though the text could have been lengthened, I feel, without becoming too technical or tedious. For instance, I feel that the author could have usefully given credit to Edward Milles Nelson and also reviewed the corroborative evidence from the American continent -- both South and North -- where it is not called astroarchaeology, but archaeoastrology. Gerald Hawkins is discussed over five pages, but the second generally best known American investigator into this subject, Prof. Lyle B. Borst (author of "Megalithic Software") is not mentioned. Both have been criticized and it seems strange that Borst should be ignored completely.

The last long paragraph of this book damns orthodoxy and sets out with condensed clarity the current situation regarding our prehistoric heritage.

This book proves that masterpieces need not be Harold Robbins-length blockbusters and that small is beautiful.

The illustrations give a cosiness alongside penetrating prose which gives a concise summary of a complex and important subject in a no-nonsense manner in a superbly-designed book..

It amounts to a pirahna in archaeology's Mississippi of lies. Makes "faws" tame stuff



EARTH MAGIC by FRANCIS HITCHING
(Cassell & Co., £4-50)

This book is designed to summarize the beliefs and standpoints of orthodox archaeologists and speculative investigators and it does so with journalistic efficiency and fairness. Yet the professional bitterness which continually shifts below the surface of academic archaeology like

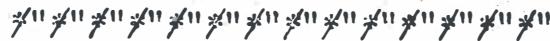
some grotesque poltergeist manifestation of the earth spirit makes it unlikely that any alliance with fringe prehistory is possible. My own dealings with career archaeologists is that they are the most stubborn and unimaginative people around. When astrology allowed astronomy to overshadow it a great deal was lost and the transition from antiquaries to artifact-collecting archaeologists also took away the human and cosmically true nature of the sites. This aspect is relevant to "Earth Magic", for in his quest to put leys, sacred geometry of societies, and get scientific verification of the power in megaliths, Hitching fails to evoke -- at least as far as this reviewer is concerned -- the landscape's essential spiritual charisma and Mother Earth's sentient sensuality. If the professional archaeologists' grave-plundering can be likened to rape then this author's approach can be likened to a grope in the cinema backseats -- something planned, but not wholly fulfilling.

The book impressed me more on the second reading as a sympathetic understanding of the ideas promulgated in direct opposition to conformity. Hitching gives a balanced view of current ley hunting, explains Thom's theories in terms the layman can understand, and puts the power in the stones into a cultural context which is palusible. With trendy scientist John Taylor in tow, a gaussmeter is used to "prove" stone power, but speculation as to its production and properties is not fully synthesized. My belief is that interpretation of folklore can give us a multitude more clues as to the multifarious aspects of the elusive power. Hitching touches upon this, but gives only a potted account of the main themes of megalithic lore.

In fact, his method of summarizing the various strands of thought on the past allow the general reader to make up his/her mind on which prehistoric viewpoint is correct. Also the interested reader will no doubt go on to the other books paraphrased in the text.

I particularly enjoyed seeing line block illustrations in preference to photographs and found the book marshalled to make for the arguments to flow easily.

It makes for a good primer for those unaware of recent developments in the Great Prehistory Debate, for the framework of disputed territory is well mapped. But Mr Hitching will have to decide which side he's on.



THE PAST IS HUMAN by PETER WHITE
(Angus & Robertson, £3.80)

Declared "an admirable antidote to current archaeological fantasies" by Prof. Glyn Daniel, self-proclaimed spokesman for British archaeological orthodoxy, this book examines such old favourites of the world mysteries and ancient astronaut syndrome as Easter Island statues, the Great Pyramid, Nazca lines, Mayan calendar, Stonehenge, Zimbabwe, the Piri Re is Map, and paintings of alleged spacemen.

I am in ful agreement with Dr. White, a senior lecturer in pre-history at the University of Sydney, as to the origin of the monum-ents. Though a member of the fraternity Prof. Daniel is so ill dispo- sed towards, I do not align myself with the von Daniken brigade. The evidence has always struck me that man's ingenuity knowns no bounds and if he wished to build cyclopaean monuments then where there's a will there's a way. No need for itinerant galaxy hoppers to stop over and spread a little wisdom while allowing their flying machines to be contracted out for a few days of levitating hige blocks of rock. Year by year we are unc vering more evidence for high intell- ectual, technological and social civilisations throughout the world.

However, in his headlong rush to demystify the major sites of interest, Dr White's holier than thou halo comes askew at times. Of particular interest is his dismissal of Stonehenge's astronomical properties through his basing his criticism on a poor appraisal of Gérald Hawkins's work and neglecting to mention Alexander Thom's research.

He attributes the usual hazy ritual motivations for the constructions, but denies the scientific possibilities or inspiration by spirit. While erasing much of the confusion caused by the ancient astronaut clan, he leaves a whole new set of questions to be answered.

Unfortunately its non-sensational nature will hardly make it a best seller. People seem to want to believe in the "Was God an Astronaut?" cult.

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DOWSING: TECHNIQUES & APPLICATIONS by TOM GRAVES
(Turnstone Books, £1-75)

Here's a practical book which takes the mystique out of dowsing by handling the subject in a down to earth manner, stressing simplicity, and written in a casual, non-technical manner. No unnecessary terms are used, no dogma is pronounced, and Graves's style makes the subject amenable and approachable to all.

His book revived my interest in the practicalities. Previously I tried two of his three basic methods. With a pendulum I tried sexing our then (separately) unborn children: Kathryn responded to masculinity; Ian as twins. However, I "blindfolded" pendulum traced a specific ley on a map successfully, including visualising it as a straight, fluorescent line. But attempts in 1971 at Risbury Camp to use Andrew (of Glastonbury Fayre fame) Kerr's tree fork seeking blind springs were abortive, though others in our company had astonishing success. But I followed Graves's instructions and made angle rods and located a coin hidden under snow in the garden. I am now persevering farther.

Beyond the straightforwardly comprehensive descriptions (including many clear diagrams) of the many varieties of basic divining, he discusses map and time dowsing, prospecting, agriculture, and medicine (applause here for his balance and sanity on a subject fraught with polarized attitudes). He catalogues all the pitfalls and stresses that the dowsing appendages are merely amplifiers. He also calls for objectivity and commonsense (I personally have come across a renowned radionics practitioner who chooses hot pot ingredients purely by pendulum reactions!).

I found particularly interesting his application of dowsing to archaeology (the professional side of which he scorns as dogmatic, unable to distinguish between information and interpretation, and having great ability to miss or exclude facts which fail to conform to the observer's current theory. He examines Underwood's remarkable claims and explains his reservations with sympathetic candour, though aligning himself 100% with those who experience and examine the fluctuating earth powers. His personal investigations of energy at the Rollrights is immensely convincing.

Also he rounds off the book with information on books, bookshops and societies which will lead the novice dowser in the correct direction.

It is rare indeed to find a book where I find no single reason to criticize even the merest triviality, and this book must be awarded full points for its comprehensiveness, conviviality and

obvious ability to command for itself the place of No. 1 manual in a fascinating subject. As with dowsing, the book itself "works", and does so by its no-nonsense approach.

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THE POWER OF THE PENDULUM by T.C. LETHBRIDGE
 (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £3-25)

"We have talked about a considerable number of differing subjects in this short study. Much of it probably does not make sense to those who read it."

Some may not make sense to some people, for the preoccupations of Lethbridge's life were challenging and unorthodox and it is likely that his interpretations will not suit all psychologists, parapsychologists or archaeologists. The book certainly makes sense to me, but it took a couple of careful readings to fully appreciate, and I was aided by being conversant with most of his earlier work, where the material here was germinated. Lethbridge's body of work on psychic research, dowsing, paganism and archaeology has cross-fertilised throughout and there has always been a degree of repetition. However, this has been necessary, for his concepts in whatever field he has been investigating have been fresh, bold, intuitive and have often required modification.

Though a professional (though hardly orthodox) archaeologist, he only touches upon prehistory briefly in this work, which is on the theme of dreams and time. His thesis is that his work with the pendulum has offered a means of establishing that there are realms beyond our "normal" consciousness, both in space and time. By using this simple instrument, he found that a great deal could be "asked" of it and that such utilisation created a contact between a higher part of the mind which already knows such things and our limited everyday consciousness. He also analyses the phenomenon of dreams foreshadowing the future and simplifies the intricacies of J.W. Dunne's study of the meaning of time in this context. The "vibrational rates" for objects he tested with the pendulum registered two rates and he concluded that these related to both before and apparently after death. Hence he suggested that the "soul" may be immortal and that there are more than one dimension of time in which objects exist.

Much of the book is about sleep and Lethbridge notes that the pendulum rate for sleep is 40 inches. I would have thought that his hypersensitive ability to connect fascinating correlations would have pounced on the fact that we talk of "having 40 winks" relating to sleep! He also discusses the psi faculty in cats and concludes that "like human beings, they live in other whorls of the (existence) spiral", which he could have extended, perhaps, to amplify the idea of nine lives.

The book has a fascinating foreword by one of my favourite authors, Colin Wilson, which puts Lethbridge's books and life (he died in 1971) into perspective. It may be of interest to speculative archaeologists that Wilson touches upon the subject of leys and muses upon whether Lethbridge knew of the theory and is of the opinion that he would have taken it seriously. I understand the contrary, however, Devon acupuncturist John Wheaton visited him shortly before his death and Lethbridge revealed scepticism.

However, his was an original mind working independent of dogma and this book is a fitting conclusion to his multi-faceted studies.

THE FINDHORN GARDENby The Findhorn Community(Turnstone Books/Wildwood
House, £2-95)THE MAGIC OF FINDHORNby Paul Hawken

(Fontana, 80p)

These books on the well-known New Age community in northern Scotland complement one another. One deals with how the soil by the wind-swept Moray Firth was made by a combination of organic gardening and nature devas to blossom beyond belief -- and far beyond normal expectation. The second is written (or rather overwritten) journalistically from personal impressions, interviews, pamphlets, extracts and correspondence.

To deal first with THE FINDHORN GARDEN. The garden aspect of Findhorn is put to the fore and its evolution is charted from its primitive beginnings to its full fruition and on to its lowering of activity (as the lessons had been learned). Naturally there are those who believe any compost addition could have created the period of superplants and that notions of earth energies and co-operation from spirit realms make persons certifiable, but there are documented here the opinions of experts on soil and visual evidence among the 150 black and white photographs.

Pictorially the book is far from your average gardening guide, but the pictures would seemingly capture the spirit of the caravan site community. The early years of the community are described here by five of its luminaries and the impression to anyone unacquainted with New Age literature could be one of laughter, sorrow or nausea. Contacts with cosmic entities; advice from landscape angels, the Good King Henry Deva and Leek Deva; meeting nature spirits including Pan; certainly the straightforward means of presenting these occult concepts asks that they be taken seriously.

But underlying the basics of growing plants, is the objective of the garden being for the growth of personal consciousness and plenty of horticultural analogies could be summoned to express the transition to an inner wholeness.

Which brings me to THE MAGIC OF FINDHORN. Actually I had toyed with the idea of taking a sabbatical and writing just such a book as this, as I had heard conflicting reports about Findhorn. Friends who had been and others who knew others who had been preferred widely divergent views of the place (not always favourable) and upon offering this viewpoint over breakfast once as a guest in Hull to two who had been there, the mother heatedly defended the community whilst the daughter was critical of it. Anyway, the working holiday never materialised. I'd seen this book beforehand, but not bought it, but recently someone who admired my *QUICKSIDVER HERITAGE* sent a copy as a gift. Upon reading it I've come away from this book with contradictory feelings. The author appears gullible about people; some personal backgrounds border on the imagined, the overtly sensational, the indiscreet, or plain nosey. The style of writing uneasily shifts between documentary and the novel and as such the effect of making it seem to be about very real people is negated by the feeling that elements of fiction, subconscious or consciously, crept in. It reads more like a good yarn (recommended as pronounced fiction is Geoffrey Ashe's community-based novel "The Finger and the Moon") and maybe such a projection of Findhorn is more easily assimilable than the actual members of the community writing about themselves. The vision of the energy points at the end sounds so pat and Hawken as he leaves Forres fails to distinguish between electric and diesel traction taking him back to the U.S.A. Maybe he could not distinguish less mundane matters?

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THE SECRET COUNTRY by JANET & COLIN BORD (Paul Elek, £5-95)
FOLKLORE OF PREHISTORIC SITES IN BRITAIN by L.V. GRINSELL
(David & Charles, £7-95)

These two works complement one another spectacularly. Grinsell categorizes the folklore of ancient sites in the British Isles (though he ignores Ireland) briefly and then pinpoints the legends county by county. The Bords, unlike Grinsell, do not allow for a multiplicity of creations of the widely diverse tales. The Bords' interpretation of the folklore of megalithic monuments is unequivocally related to ley power or the earth spirit, whereas though I, too, regard such a manifestation as having generated a high proportion of legends, I believe many hundreds of others have less occult origins.

Having spent the past three years researching the same material as the Bords and Grinsell for THE LIVING STONES, my own investigation of the folklore of prehistoric monuments and its modern equivalents as a sequel to QUICKSILVER HERITAGE, the tales in the books were generally familiar.

The marshalling of the tales is the greatest difference between these books. L.V. Grinsell's work is generally a compendium of tales with grid references and detailed bibliographical material.

The Bords, too, have taken care in marshalling their information and provided useful bibliographies and indices. Persons in certain quarters chose to vilify the Bords' earlier work, MYSTERIOUS BRITAIN, as coffeetable and banal, and though having weaknesses that work did introduce a great number of people to ancient skills and wisdom, and generated many new subscribers for such magazines as this and THE LEY HUNTER. THE SECRET COUNTRY is a far more mature work and thematically sticks to its guns and positions itself to stand or fall on its singular interpretation of folkloric accounts.

Pleasantly laid out, visually easy on the eye, THE SECRET COUNTRY balances a great deal of detail without allowing the repetition to become overpowering. The largest single aspect of folklore is associated with the supernatural siting of religious edifices and perhaps here the Bords overstate their case, wheras Grinsell declines to touch upon this aspect (though I personally find it so obvious an extension of megalithic sites lore as to be an essential area of examination). The Bords' style is generally straightforward and the occasional "humour" strikes this reviewer as slightly intrusive.

L.V. Grinsell's approach gives the impression of completeness, but this is not so. Also its claim that for the first time the folklore of all these sites has been recorded in book form is now incorrect, for the simultaneous appearance of the Bords' work scotches that (though I'm sure both knew nothing of one another -- just as I was unaware of Grinsell's compilation while writing my own.).

The Grinsell book proclaims itself "designed primarily as a guide and reference book" and so its first part on the background has no particular special axe or axes to grind -- simply producing capsule descriptions of the themes of giantlore, faery, the Devil, ghosts, mysterious movement, enumeration defiance, folk custom, etc. His book scores over the Bords in its posited relationship between the legends and background information of British history and culture. My own researches have drawn together and expanded upon the creation of folklore and the part played by early Christianity and general historical perspectives.

I imagine Grinsell's book will have a greater academic appeal, but the Bord's argue their ley power hypothesis competently, constructively and convincingly. The former has respectability; the latter an endearing maverick spirit.

As many readers will be aware my book *QUICKSILVER HERITAGE* studies ley power, and along with John Michell's *THE VIEW OVER ATLANTIS* and *THE EARTH SPIRIT*, and Francis Hitching's *EARTH MAGIC*, has established the reality of such energy to the satisfaction of most rational thinkers, and the Bord's, though in my mind seeing ley power influences too readily, have contributed positively to a climate of investigation which will no doubt prove exceptionally fruitful.

These two books are equally valuable additions to the subject of prehistoric mysteries and are both essential for the discerning researcher's library.

But let us be wary when approaching legends. Prof. Haverfield stated: "Legends generally embody truth, but they embody it so successfully as to hide it altogether." That is defeatist, but basically true, and a modern attitude by Evan Hadingham is equally to the point: "Indeed the same stories can be interpreted in different ways to supply contradictory evidence."

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PREHISTORIC BRITAIN AND IRELAND by J. FORDE-JOHNSTON
(J.M. Dent & Sons, £4-95)

Aimed obviously at a non-specialist audience both in shape and format, this book treats the subject in a totally straightforward manner. This orthodox archaeologist has no axe to grind, no new theories of his own, and certainly no intention of being controversial. He behaves neither like Fox, Daniel, Williams, Atkinson or Hawkes who sneer at recent speculations nor is he publishing deliberately to expand his reputation or career. Actually one would not suspect from this book that archaeology is permanently experiencing convulsions, and perhaps as it is so currently contentious the author amazingly neglects to even mention Silbury Hill -- the largest man-made prehistoric monument in Europe!

Ironically such a book as this would probably never have been published in such form were it not for the alternative archaeological movement creating such general interest in the public about our heritage. The text is kept simple and there is a liberal ~~body~~ selection of illustrations, both in the form of 47 photographs and 72 diagrams.

The only concession to recent speculations into the mystery of protohistory is to give guarded support to the investigations into stone circles' geometric and astronomical properties. Otherwise the projected viewpoint is unswervingly party line.

From opening with an outline of the prehistoric period from the beginning of tool making to the Roman invasions, this framework is fleshed out with descriptions of the various structures of early man. He covers stone circles and standing stones, henges, mounds, tombs, camps and hillforts, duns and brochs, and houses and settlements. He particularly stresses the surviving structures which are of so much interest to we whose interest is in topography and man's moulding of the landscape. On this level the book works as an instructive work and one which will be most useful for reference.

THE INDEFINITE BOUNDARY by GUY LYON PLAYFAIR

(Souvenir Press, £4-25)

Don't be put off by the title for this investigation into the relationship between Matter and Spirit (as it is subtitled) is his second excellent tome on South American psychic phenomena. It intrigued me and impressed my wife. The style is easy and makes the multitude of odd happenings -- surrounding poltergiests, precognition, clairvoyance, telepathy -- appear exciting. Some parapsychological literature becomes dull and dry as it attempts to be desperately scientific and down to earth. The active psychic life of Brazil and the author's sympathetic and searching research is undertaken in the right spirit (no pun). He personally witnessed a great number of paranormal happenings and his anecdotes make for fascinating reading, but beyond the incidents described lies a psi-world which two commentators attempt in this world to explain.

To round off the book, Playfair presents a compact account of the past 120 years of psychical research separating the true from the false, fact from legend, together with a valuable summary of work done by conventional scientists in physics and biology, who, in this century, have been seeking ways of defining those areas of our experience that still cannot be observed consciously.

+++++ MAGAZINES +++++

THE JOURNAL OF METEOROLOGY. Sub. £6-50 from Dr G.T. Meaden, Cockhill House, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 6BG. Monthly. Commercially printed. Research papers, news items, conference info., book reviews on meteorology and climatology. The issue I've seen, Nov. 1976, might seem too academic and dry (lots of dry spells!) but some of the phenomena would interest Forteans and there's a reply to Sir Peter Scott on water devils and Loch Ness sightings.

INFO JOURNAL. No. 21. Quarterly. Sub. and sustaining membership to International Fortean Organization £5. Single copies 90p. From 7317 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, MD, 20740, U.S.A. Bob Forrest on pyramids, Stuart W. Greenwood on "golden models of ancient space-craft?", ice fall, phantom butcher, newsclippings and letters.

FORTEAN TIMES. A contemporary record of strange phenomena. Bi-monthly. From R.J.M. Rickard, P.O. Box 152, London N10 1EP. Sub. £3. No. 19 has exceptionally detailed and rivetting "Aliens Among Us" piece on exotic wildlife in the U.K. by Peter Roberts; sea monster Morgawr in detail; the S.W.'s mystery booms; and much more.

THE ATLANTIC. Sub. £1-80 from The Atlanteans, 42 St George's St., Cheltenham, GL50 4AF. No. 167: Beginning of astrology series; Paul Screeton on fanciful suggestions proposed as to who built the British megalithic monuments. No. 168: Particularly worth reading are Sul's "Touched by God" account of archetypes and Betty Wood's scholarly "The Mystery of the Horse" cult analysis.

LANDLORD. Pub. by the Borderline Science Investigation Group. Sub. 85p or 22p per copy, inc. p&p. Quarterly. From BSIG, c/o 3 Dunwich Way, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 4RZ. No. 16: Mostly but not exclusively East Anglian with M.W. Burgess's thoughts on puddingstones; three UFO reports; "phantom tiger" in Norfolk; mystery flares; and news round-up. Informal, duplicated, good value mag.

QUEST. Quarterly. Sub. £1-50, current issue 45p inc. p&p. From BCM-SCL Quest, London WC1V 6XX. Interesting pieces on Arthur Machen's work; G. Stuart Dearn feeling the old magic in Ireland at the Pipers Stones; Sid Birchby on "The Queen of May"; and C.D.F. Shepherd on "The Four Sons of Horus". Always interesting.

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UNDERCURRENTS. Sub. £3. From UC Subs, 11 Shadwell, Uley, Dursley, Glos., GL11 5BW. No. 20: More a mixed bag than usual. Past five years of publication reviewed; dubious article on Comrade Benn's discovery of Diggers; canals; Cambodia; alternative TV; world food; solar energy, etc. As always challenging and informed book reviews. No. 21: Theme is "Hard Times: What Will Become of the Counter-culture. Interesting pieces on free radio, nicely written guide to farmhouses deliberately left empty; plenty on the nuclear power stations madness; what you need to know about DIY printing. Review of my Quicksilver Heritage utilised partly as propaganda for an Anglesey leys project (which I've joined).

ESSEX DOWSER: A privately-circulated newsletter for members and friends of the Essex Dowsing Group. From Frank Dineen, 4 Brentwood Rd., Ingrave, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 3QH. Published when possible and financed by donations. No. 13: Electric light oddities; raudive voice phenomena; correspondence with Francis Hitching; dowsing and lukaemia; church orientation and Underwood's geodetic phenomena; and magazine reviews. One man's personal views on interesting aspects of the paranormal and always stimulating and chatty.

JOURNAL OF GEOMANCY. Published by Institute of Geomantic Research, 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8SD. Sub. of £3 brings four issues and all IGR Occasional papers produced during the currency of the sub. Single copies 60p. Vol. 1 No. 4: Rupert Pennick on the Book of Joshua; more of Robert Forrest's metrological ideas; Nigel Pennick on Saxon geometrical ratios; a reprint of C.W. Dymon's comments on Gunnerkeld stone circle; Alan Bullion on Tonbridge's subterranea; and a particularly interesting editorial on the dispersal of the Maltwood Fund money. Other IGR publications will be reviewed in the next issue of A.S.W.R.

THE LEY HUNTER. Going from strength to strength. The Magazine of Earth Mysteries from Paul Devereux, P.O. Box 152, London N10 1EP. Sub. £2. Litho. No. 76: John Steele puts the Bimini Road into perspective; Anthony Roberts continues writing of "Magic Mounds and Fairies"; Chris Castle contributes a Limerick alignment; Don Roberts writes again on properties of stone; Paul Screeeton's column covers a variety of developments in hermetic topography; L.B. and B.M. Borst write of "Standing Stones in Japan"; letters and items;

MUFOB. Arguably the best UFO magazine around at the moment. An informal journal devoted to ufology and related subjects published independently by the editors. Sub. £1-25. To John Rimmer, 11 Beverley Road, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4AW. New Series 6: John Harney on "The Case for Humanoids"; Dr Ron Westrum on "Knowing About UFOs"; William Smith's "A Schematic Chart of Ufology"; the continuing international catalogue of Type I reports; book reviews. New Series 7: Despite the odd title "Doves Are Just Middle-Class Pigeons," subtitled "Notes at the limits of the New Ufologies", by Peter Rogerson, is THE best article I've ever read on UFOs. This really goes to the heart of the matter in a no-nonsense way and will jolt anyone who reads. The editor touches upon the current trouble in ufology concerning BUFORA. There is also an article by Jenny Randles (one at the centre of the troubles) on "Recent U.K. Contact Reports". Book and magazine reviews. A particularly stimulating magazine. Litho format like T.L.H. and F.T.